

MENNONITE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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Mennonitische Rundschau (1878-1956)

By FRANK H. EPP

The *Mennonitische Rundschau* is a 16-page German-language weekly published every Wednesday at Winnipeg, Manitoba, by The Christian Press, Ltd. As a Christian family paper, the *MR* (*Mennonitische Rundschau*) circulates in German Mennonite communities primarily in Canada and South America, but also in Europe and the United States.

Since its founding as the *Nebraska Ansiedler* in 1878, the *MR* has had eight editors coming from several branches of the Mennonite Church, namely: the Mennonite Church, the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church, and the Mennonite Brethren Church. The present editor is H. F. Klassen.

As the largest and oldest German Mennonite paper in America, the *MR* has historically sought to serve the German-speaking Mennonite brotherhood in all parts of the world. In recent years, however, particularly in the last decade, it has tended to serve more the interests of one Mennonite group, although it has not lost its former inter-Mennonite character altogether.

This study will divide the history of this paper into four periods. Its historical development will be traced in each of the periods with an attempt to discover the factors that contributed to the making and also the unmaking of the *Rundschau* as an inter-Mennonite periodical.

At Lincoln, Nebraska, 1878-80

The forerunner of the *MR* was the *Nebraska Ansiedler* published at Lincoln, Nebraska, as a supplement to the *Herald of Truth* of Elkhart, Indiana, from 1878 to 1888.¹

When Mennonite settlers from South Russia emigrated to the United States in the 1870's, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was anxious to have them settle on her land in the West. To promote this purpose the railroad company needed a periodical, a German periodical or newspaper, through which to present settlement possibilities to the German Mennonite immigrants.

Railroad company officials contacted the Mennonite Publishing Company in Elkhart, Indiana. Negotiations resulted in the publication of the *Nebraska Ansiedler* as a supplement to the *Herold der Wahrheit*, beginning in June of 1878, with the railroad footing the bill. John F. Funk was the editor.²

The *Nebraska Ansiedler* was published

primarily in the interests of the German Mennonite settlers in Nebraska, but also for Mennonite immigrants from Russia which settled in other states. "With the stated purpose of giving a Christian interpretation to news, it contained articles on crops, animal husbandry, school affairs, domestic and foreign news, market prices, and other features."³

When the railroad company withdrew support after the immigration and settlement movement had subsided, the *Nebraska Ansiedler* had won wide support and circulation, and the Mennonite Publishing Company, Elkhart, Indiana, assumed publishing responsibility.⁴

At Elkhart, Indiana, 1880-1908

Established as a private company by John F. Funk in 1864 and joined by his brother in 1869, Funk's firm was incorporated as the Mennonite Publishing Company on May 1, 1875, with widely held stock ownership.⁵

In 1880 the name of the *Nebraska Ansiedler* was changed to *Mennonitische Rundschau*, and John F. Harms, a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church and immigrant from Russia in 1878, became the editor.⁶

The first two volumes of *MR* unfortunately were not available when this study was made. In the issues of 1882 and 1883 there is, however, ample evidence that the editors and publishers aimed to serve all Mennonite groups.

The first issue available in the Bethel College Historical Library carries a statement under the title on the front page indicating that the *MR* is "Gewidmet der Mittheilung von Nachrichten aus mennonitischen Kreisen von nah und fern."⁷

The *Rundschau* claimed to be the "einzige mennonitisches Blatt . . . welches aus allen mennonitischen Siedlungen Nachrichten bringt."⁸ A statement from the publishers outlined the purpose and outreach of the *Rundschau*.

The *MR* appeared to be quite successful in its attempt to reach into all Mennonite communities. It circulated in the United States, Canada, and Russia. In the latter country there were over 500 subscribers as early as May 15, 1883. No other Mennonite periodical, published in or outside of Russia, had such a large circulation among Mennonites in that country.⁹

A report on circulation in 1890 indicated that the *Rundschau* was successfully win-

ning subscribers in most of the Mennonite communities, particularly in America. In most of the states and provinces listed below there were more than a hundred subscribers and in several there were nearly a thousand:¹⁰

America: Alberta, Assiniboia (Saskatchewan), California, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Manitoba, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington; *Europe*: Baden, Frankreich, Galizien, Holland, Pfalz, Sachsen, Suedrussland, Schweiz, Westfalen, Westpreussen; *Asia*: Turkestan, China.

The main contents of the *MR* before the turn of the century were news articles from the various communities. Beginning on the front page, they often took up almost all of the paper. Of greatest significance in these news items were the family and community affairs which the settlers in the new country recorded for their relatives in other parts of the country as well as in the old country, Russia. In addition the *Rundschau* contained political and cultural news as well as practical helps for the settlers. Advertising was directed mainly at the needs of new settlers.

Harms remained editor until 1886, when he was succeeded by a non-Mennonite, Maximilian Matuskewitz, who, however, remained unknown to the readers.¹¹ In August, 1895, D. F. Jantzen became the editor. For four years he continued in the policy of his predecessors, making a special attempt to gain correspondents in communities wherever there were Mennonites.

When G. G. Wiens became editor in January of 1899, a rather aggressive policy of promoting the *MR* as an inter-Mennonite paper was begun. It must be remembered that the various branches of the Mennonite Church were struggling to establish their own denominational papers during this time. This, no doubt, was a factor in creating a need for the constant re-evaluation of the place and function of a paper like the *MR*.

In September, 1903, Wiens, who had so vigorously spoken for inter-Mennonite cooperation, gave up his work as editor of the *MR*. Although he wrote a lengthy farewell, the actual reason for his leaving was not clearly stated.

For a while the *MR* was without an official editor, until M. B. Fast was appointed to serve in that capacity. He, too, manifested a passion for keeping the paper inter-Mennonite, but apparently in a more subdued way.

Under the direction of editor Fast, the *MR* also served as a receiving and dispatching agency for funds contributed by the American Mennonites for relief in Russia.

Early in 1904 the Mennonite Publishing Company was seriously threatened when a local bank closed up. The company then offered bonds for sale to the public. In 1906 a serious fire caused the company to go bankrupt. A government-recognized agency assumed control of the finances of the company. This agency made a vigorous attempt to collect subscription fees and other moneys owing the company.

On September 1, 1908, John F. Funk, president of the company, announced that the business had been sold to the Mennonite Publication Board and that henceforth the *MR* would be published at Scottsdale, Pennsylvania.

An analysis of the content of the *MR* prior to its transfer to Scottsdale reveals that it consisted predominantly of news items from Mennonite communities. As many as eleven out of the sixteen pages were devoted to community news.

A survey of the first issue of every month for the first six months of 1908 reveals that there were active correspondents in at least thirteen states, three provinces, and in South Russia. Most of the news articles came from South Russia, with 37 news articles recorded in the seven issues studied, Manitoba with 29, Kansas with 27, and Saskatchewan with 21.

The main content of the correspondence and news articles was family news and communications between families in North America and Russia. Although an accurate analysis of the content of these articles is virtually impossible, most of them containing a little bit of everything, including settlement news, crop conditions, weather, a record of the predominant theme in the articles reveals that, in the six issues studied, only 19 can be considered religious in nature, and only two of these made reference to a particular Mennonite Church. This was from a total of about 180 news articles recorded.

At Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, 1908-23

The new publishers were the Mennonite Publication Board and Publishing House owned and operated by the several district conferences of the (Old) Mennonite Church.¹² This denominational control, however, apparently did not affect the purpose of the paper. The major portion of the (Old) Mennonite constituency was no longer needing a German publication, the *Herold der Wahrheit*, German organ of fourteen (Old) Mennonite and Amish Mennonite conferences, having been discontinued as a separate publication in November of 1901.

The first issue of the *MR* appeared at

Scottsdale, September 9, 1908, in a three-column format and 20 pages. The general content remained the same with a good deal of space again given to news and correspondence from the various communities. World news, practical helps for the farmer, and advertising also took up considerable space. Devotional and editorial articles took up pages 3 and 10, respectively. The *MR* now had over 5,000 readers.¹³

The popularity of this paper continued. When M. B. Fast wrote his farewell editorial in 1910, he could say that the *MR* was being read by families in all the Mennonite church groups in America.

C. B. Wiens succeeded Fast as editor in October of 1910, for ten full years, until June of 1920. During these ten years of steady and faithful editing he continued very much in the policies set by M. B. Fast, with perhaps a slight increase in devotional and doctrinal articles.

The new editor, William Winsinger, shifted the policy somewhat. Whereas his predecessors had placed a premium on news and correspondence coming from the Mennonite communities, Winsinger relegated these to second or even third place.

In the beginning of 1922 Herman H. Neufeld, of Herbert, Saskatchewan, became associate editor. For a while he continued his work from Herbert, but later moved to Scottsdale. During this time the needs of the Mennonites in Russia received considerable attention in the *MR*. Again this paper served as major medium between the American and Russian Mennonite communities.

A special column of relief notes was introduced. Both Winsinger and Neufeld took great interest in the relief movement as it related to the emerging Mennonite Central Committee. Neufeld forwarded "Food Drafts for Russia" for American donors.

During the months of 1922 the columns of the *MR* gave priority to the needs in Russia. In addition to the "Hilfswerk-Notizen," columns like the following were introduced: "Nachrichten aus Russland," "Verwandte gesucht," lists of American donors, and later on the lists of Mennonite immigrants coming to Canada from Russia. The March 1 issue was a special 32-page edition containing only news items and articles on the Russian situation. Likewise, the March 8 issue contained only items on Russia; even the editorials had been left out to conserve precious space for the presentation of the dire needs of the Russian brethren. In turn the Russian brethren used the *MR* as a medium of communication with the American people. Likewise, the early issues of 1923 contained mostly family news from Russia; there was little local correspondence from American and Canadian communities.

In September of 1923 the Mennonite Publishing House made an announcement stating that the *MR* had been sold to Rundschau Publishing House, of Winni-

peg, Manitoba, with Herman H. Neufeld as editor and business manager of the new publication center. One of the reasons for the shift to Winnipeg was because most of the readers were now in Canada and the Midwestern states.

At Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1923-56

The Rundschau Publishing House was established with a missionary motive, as over and against a profit motive. A publication board of representatives of Mennonite churches in Manitoba and of the new immigrants was formed. Members of this board were listed as being Herman H. Neufeld, Winnipeg; Heinrich Doerkson, Niverville; Jacob Hoepfner, Winkler; Jacob T. Wiebe, Greenland; Heinrich A. Reimer, Landmark; Heinrich S. Voth, Roland; and Benjamin Janz, Steinbach.¹⁴ The Publishing House at Scottsdale retained partial control with Aaron Loucks of Scottsdale continuing as general director of the *MR*. This was due to the financial investment which Scottsdale had in the publication, until such time when the Rundschau Publishing House could take over completely.¹⁵

Although the *MR* was edited in Winnipeg beginning with the first issue in October, 1923, it continued to be printed from Scottsdale until December 12 of that year. Editorials by Herman Neufeld, editor, and A. Kroeker, editorial assistant, sought to establish the place of the *MR* in its new environment.

The contents of the *MR* continued to relate themselves to the Mennonite settlements, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and in Midwest states, and also to the movements of the immigrants from Russia. Several issues in 1925 contained special supplements listing the immigrants coming to Canada from Russia. Business advertising increased noticeably in 1926. For two decades the *MR* continued in this way to serve the church and community interests of the Mennonites, particularly in Canada. As the settlements were established and the Mennonites turned to mission, educational, and church interests this was quite accurately reflected in the content of the paper.

A turning point in the history of the *MR* came when The Christian Press, Ltd.,¹⁶ was purchased by a group of brethren who were members of the Mennonite Brethren Church in Canada. Most of the members of the group belonged to the Fuersorgekomitee of the Canadian conference.¹⁷ This was in October of 1945.

The purchase price had been \$34,000, representing 3,400 shares at \$10.00 each. Excepting 727 shares, which were held by shareholders in the United States, the business was the sole property of the Neufeld family. Neufeld had agreed to turn 400 shares over to the Canadian conference, and settled for \$30,000. Within a year 388 shareholders of the Mennonite Brethren group had purchased 1,875 shares.

Herman Neufeld resigned as editor and published a brief farewell statement on

the front page of the October 17, 1945, issue. Shortly after, H. F. Klassen was announced as editor and managing director of The Christian Press. A publisher's statement on the front page of the October 24 issue stated that the *MR* would continue in the tradition of serving the interests of all groups.

On December 15 the first official meeting of shareholders was held. Seventy delegates from five provinces attended. Elected to the Board of Directors were: C. A. DeFehr, H. F. Klassen, C. C. Warrentin, J. Janzen, B. B. Janz, Benj. Redekop, A. A. Kroeker, F. H. Friesen, and John Wall. A restatement of purpose came from this meeting and was published on the front page of the December 26 issue.

At the 1946 sessions of the Canadian Mennonite Brethren conference the chairman of the board reported on the new ownership of the Christian Press and the reason for the prompt action on the part of the Fuersorgekomitee. The conference approved the action wholeheartedly.

At the 1947 sessions of the conference H. F. Klassen, managing director, appealed to members of the conference to buy additional shares so that the control of The Christian Press would be guaranteed to rest with the Mennonite Brethren Church.

Although The Christian Press is not officially owned by the Mennonite Brethren Church, the control still resting with the Board of Directors elected at an annual meeting of the shareholders, the Canadian conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church has in recent years purchased additional shares and in addition contributes about \$1,500 in funds annually for free distribution of the *MR* in South America.¹⁸

In spite of this rigid denominational control, the editors and publishers of the *MR* continued to emphasize the inter-Mennonite purpose and quality of the paper. At least this was expressed in reports to the Canadian Mennonite Brethren conference almost every year since 1946.

After World War II the *MR* again played a major role in the refugee movement and reuniting of families. At the time of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the *MR* the Board of Directors spoke of the immigration movement in the 1870's and the immigrations following the first and second world wars as the three most outstanding periods in the history of the paper.

With the exception of the inter-Mennonite emphasis and content referred to above, the *MR* has since 1945 tended to overlay Mennonite Brethren interests. Although an accurate statistical analysis is hardly possible, a survey illustrates in a representative way this tendency.

In 1955 and the early months of 1956 the Russian Mennonite situation, the traditional *Rundschau* theme, has again returned to the columns of the paper. Since letters from relatives and friends in Russia have been coming through to Canadian

Mennonites, many of these have been published in the columns of the paper arousing widespread inter-Mennonite and inter-family interest. In the last few months the old column, "Verwandte und Freunde gesucht," has again been introduced, with as much as one page in a single issue being devoted to this section.

Conclusion

Although absolute conclusions from a study like this are hardly possible, it would be incomplete without a summary statement highlighting the factors that contributed to the making and unmaking of the *MR* as an inter-Mennonite periodical. These will be considered from a threefold point of view.

Publishing Base and Purpose: In the opinion of the writer, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, as independent or non-Mennonite publishers, provided the original base for the growth of the paper as an inter-Mennonite paper. The publishers at Elkhart and Scottdale built on the foundation that had been laid, as did also the publishers at Winnipeg to a greater or lesser extent. In the case of the latter the rigid denominational control and interests in the last decade have tended to thwart the original purpose.

Editorial Policy: From the beginning to the present time the editors of the *MR* have (some more, some less) announced an inter-Mennonite purpose and policy. The policy introduced by Wm. Winsinger at Scottdale, however, could have proved disastrous to the paper had not the Russian situation demanded attention, thus reversing editorial policy of highlighting doctrinal and theological articles of a contentious nature, rather than news articles. As long as the editors of the paper have highlighted community interests rather than doctrinal and church interests they have been relatively successful in maintaining inter-Mennonite balance in the paper. As soon as church interests have been highlighted they have tended in the direction of individual groups.

Contents: The extensive news coverage in the early part of the twentieth century and the attention given to needs in and migrations from Russian Mennonite communities have undoubtedly contributed to

the success of the paper among all Mennonite groups. It seems altogether possible that the current contacts with the Mennonites in Russia will at least to a degree recall the original and long-time inter-Mennonite character of the *Menno-nitische Rundschau*.

This is one of seven articles in Frank Epp's study, "The Making and Unmaking of Inter-Mennonite Periodicals" (Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, 1956), under Cornelius Krahn as adviser.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Springer, N. P., "Nebraska Ansiedler" in *Mennonite Encyclopedia*.

² Funk, J. F., "Der Nebraska Ansiedler," *Menno-nitische Rundschau*, Vol. XLVIII (Sept. 2, 1925).

³ Springer, N. P., *op. cit.*

⁴ Funk, *op. cit.*

⁵ Bender, H. S., "John Fretz Funk" in *Mennonite Encyclopedia*.

⁶ Lohrentz, J. H., "John F. Harms" in *Mennonite Encyclopedia*.

⁷ Statement appearing under title on front page of *Menno-nitische Rundschau*, Vol. V (Jan. 1, 1882).

⁸ Publisher's statement, "Werbet fuer Euer Blatt," *MR* (Nov. 21, 1888).

⁹ *Ibid.* (May 15, 1883), 3.

¹⁰ "Die Verbreitung der Rundschau," *MR* (Oct. 8, 1890).

¹¹ *MR* (Jan. 11, 1899).

¹² Fast, M. B., *MR* (Jan. 6, 1909).

¹³ Fast, M. B., *MR* (Dec. 23, 1908).

¹⁴ The names of the members of the Publication Board are listed under the masthead of the early issues of the *MR* published from Winnipeg.

¹⁵ Aaron Loucks's name also appeared on the masthead. His position was given as "General Director," with his address as Scottdale, Pa.

¹⁶ The *Rundschau* Publishing House had been reorganized as The Christian Press, Ltd., in 1940.

¹⁷ DeFehr, C. A., "Menno-nitische Rundschau," *Yearbook of the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America*, 1946, 73.

¹⁸ See reports of *Menno-nitische Rundschau* or The Christian Press, Ltd., in 1947-55 *Yearbooks of the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church*.

Origin of Mennonite Publishing House

BY DANIEL HERTZLER

I. Beginnings of Mennonite Publishing Work. It appears that the first Mennonite publishing house in our country was the one operated by Joseph Funk. This was located at Singers Glen, Virginia, and began printing in 1847. It is famous for the publishing of the "Harmonia Sacra" songbook. The influence of this publishing house was most apparent in the Shenandoah Valley.

Of more significance was the publishing establishment set up by John F. Funk in Chicago, Illinois, which began publishing the "Herald of Truth" in January, 1864.

Funk was an outstanding person with great leadership ability. He became alarmed at the condition of the church as expressed by the many young men who were entering the army during the Civil War. To counteract this trend he published a tract on nonresistance in 1863. Then in 1864 came the paper. In the first issue he said, "As a corrupt paper is so powerful to do evil, so will a moral, a Christian paper be mighty to do good."

Circulation of the "Herald of Truth" exceeded 1,000 copies by the end of 1864 and Funk considered his venture a suc-

cess. At this time the publishing work was done in his "spare time," since he was a lumber dealer. Some days he worked as many as 20 hours.

II. Growth of Mennonite Publishing Work. In the spring of 1866 Funk sold his lumber business and on April 6, 1867, moved to Elkhart, Indiana, to devote full time to his publishing and church work. His brother joined the company in 1869 and in 1875 it was reorganized as Mennonite Publishing Company. Although assuming the name "Mennonite," this company was privately owned. In time the plant of this company came to be known unofficially as Mennonite Publishing House. Business continued to grow and operations were expanded. Besides the publication of periodicals, Sunday-school quarterlies, almanacs, and tracts in both English and German, Funk published books. Two outstanding projects were the translation and publication in English of *Martyrs' Mirror* and the *Works of Menno Simons*.

By 1908 the "Herald of Truth" was the organ of 17 Mennonite conferences although not officially sponsored by the church. At this time the company had a circulation of periodicals numbering 21,000 weekly.

Financial difficulties beset the company in the years following 1900. These were partly caused by the failure of a local bank. These problems were added to some other dissatisfaction with the Mennonite Publishing Company that was present in the church. Funk had offered to sell the "Herald" to the church at a number of times but the offer was never accepted.

About this time there appeared two rival organizations, the Mennonite Book and Tract Society, in 1892, and the Gospel Witness Company, at Scottsdale, which began publishing the "Gospel Witness" in April, 1905. Perhaps they were not strict rivals but their work tended to overlap that of the Mennonite Publishing Company.

III. Birth of Mennonite Publishing House. Finally the church awakened to the need of owning its publications. In 1898 the Kansas-Nebraska Conference went on record in favor of this move. In May, 1907, the Ohio Conference recommended it. By November, 1907, when the General Conference met at Greentown, Indiana, nine district conferences had voted in favor of church-owned publications and appointed representatives for a Publication Committee. General Conference voted unanimously to support this move and appointed three representatives to work with the appointees of the district conferences.

Within a few months these church representatives had purchased the books of the Mennonite Book and Tract Society, the complete plant and publications of the Gospel Witness Company, and as many of the assets of the Mennonite Publishing Company as were felt essential to the publication work of the church. This change-over was not made without incident. In

fact, it included the solving of some rather dramatic problems.

The Gospel Witness Company and the Mennonite Book and Tract Society were paid cost price for their materials and went out of business. They were young organizations and apparently the change-over did not affect them so greatly since some of the same persons remained in the work. The older company posed a different problem.

Funk and his associates were willing to sell all of their periodicals, Sunday-school quarterlies, and related items. However, the price set on these publications was much higher than the committee representing the church was willing to pay. The church offered \$8,000 for publications which the company valued at \$20,500. After deliberation the company reduced its price to \$14,250. This was still unsatisfactory to the committee; so it appeared for a time that the Mennonite Church would become a rival to the Mennonite Publishing Company.

The Mennonite Publication Committee met at Goshen, Indiana, January 8-10, 1908, and organized the Mennonite Publication Board. On January 9 their place of business was named *Mennonite Publishing House*. This was the beginning of our present publishing house. However, it did not begin to function until about the first of April, 1908.

The problem of purchasing the *Herald of Truth* and other publications of the Mennonite Publishing Company was again taken up before the actual beginning of operations by the new company. Throughout the church persons of influence were concerned that a merger of the two publications, *Gospel Witness* and *Herald of Truth*, could be brought about.

After further negotiations, the Publication Committee agreed to pay an additional \$2,500 for the periodicals of the Mennonite Publishing Company. They also agreed to make some other purchases of books and related items. Thus, a very critical situation was averted.

IV. Conclusion. From the facts of the story a few conclusions seem apparent. They are listed here.

1. The present Mennonite Publishing House was founded in 1908. It was named in the meeting of the Publication Committee at Goshen, Indiana, January 9, 1908. It began operations about April first of that year.

2. The name "Mennonite Publishing House," as unofficially applied to the plant of the Mennonite Publishing Company, dates back almost to the years following the organization of that company in May, 1875.

3. The confusion surrounding the establishment of a church-controlled publishing house was unfortunate and we can be thankful that the problems were brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

4. While it might appear that the merger of 1908 was simply the consolidation of three private publishing interests into one church-controlled interest, it seems that consideration should be given to the extensive circulation and influence of the Mennonite Publishing Company.

5. Inasmuch as we may choose to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Mennonite Publishing House in 1958 it seems that we should consider 1904 as an anniversary commemorating a beginning that was in some ways more significant than the founding of our present publishing house in 1908.

News Notes

Printed in the last issue of the BULLETIN (July, 1956) was a list of district conference historians. Since then two additional appointments have been made. Arthur Nafziger, Hopedale, Illinois, has been appointed by the Illinois Conference, as the first conference historian of the Illinois Conference. Albert Guengerich, Mirror Landing P.O., Smith, Alberta, has been appointed to succeed the late Ezra Stauffer as historian for the Alberta-Saskatchewan Conference.

* * *

J. C. Fretz, a member of the Historical Committee and historian for the Ontario Conference, passed to his reward very suddenly on August 22, 1956. He was 70 years old.

Bro. Fretz was on the way to prayer meeting and after stopping to purchase gas and oil for his car, he drove from the service station. After bringing the car to a halt he turned off the switch and passed away. Death was attributed to a heart attack.

Bro. Fretz was a member of the Shantz Mennonite Church of Baden, Ontario, where he also served as deacon. He was

well known as former manager of the Golden Rule Bookstore, Kitchener, from which position he retired in 1955. He was a former public school teacher and ardently interested in Mennonite history.

The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon, August 26, at the First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, with a second service taking place at the Wideman Mennonite Church, Markham, prior to burial in the Wideman Cemetery, Leslie Witmer and Simon Martin conducted the services.

Surviving are his wife, the former Martha Reesor, two sons, and two daughters.

* * *

A history of the Mennonite Publishing House is being planned for the fiftieth anniversary of the House in 1958. The writer, John A. Hostetler, would appreciate access to any old photographs of early Mennonite publishing buildings: John F. Funk or Mennonite Publishing Company of Elkhart, Indiana; Joseph Funk of Singers Glen, Virginia. Readers knowing of any such photographs may help in this work by sending them to the writer, John A. Hostetler, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania.

